done during 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 is as under:—

Items		1990-91	1991-92	1992-93 (Provisional)
Drilling (Meters)	T	3,60,000	2,89,000	2,74,000
	A	3,18,007	2,41,639	2,31,829
Mining (Metres)	T	6,260	8,000	6,000
	A	6,309	5,690	4,295
Value (Rs. in Crores)	T	52.08	49.67	53.11
	A	54.60	45.20	41.85

T—Target

A—Achievement

(c) The authorised capital of the Company at its inception in 1972 was Rs. 25.00 crores which now stands at Rs. 60.00 crores as on 31st March, 1993.

Exploration of Mineral and Ores in the country

609. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the cost of exploration of various minerals and ores in our country; and

(b) what are the corresponding figures in other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BLARAM SINGH YADAV (a) The cost of exploration of minerals/ores depends upon various parameters such as depth of exploration, strata conditions, accessibility to the site, type of terrain and other infrastructural facilities. The cost of exploratory drilling for various minerals/ores undertaken by Mineral Exploation Corporation Ltd. (MECL) is as under:—

Minerals	Rate per mater drilling (in Rs.)
1. Coal (Regional exploration)	1800 to 2200
2. Coal (detailed exploration)	1400 to 2600
3. Lignite	800 to 1100
4. Copper	2500 to 2900
5. Atomic minerals	2300 to 3000
6. Gold	2500 to 2850
7. Lead-Zinc	3500 to 3750
8. Diamond	2500 to 3000
9. Tungsten	2400 to 3000

(b) The corresponding cost of exploration in other countries will vary from country to country depending on the parametres given in answer to part (a) of the question.

हिमाचल प्रदेश में खनिज भंडार

610. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह** : क्या खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) हिमाचल प्रदेश में इस समय केन्द्र सरकार के निरीक्षण में किन-किन स्थानों पर कौन-कौन सी धातुओं का खनन कार्य चल रहा है ;

(ख) हिमाचल प्रदेश में कुल्लु जिले की गड़सा घाटी में जहां ताम्बे के प्रचुर भंडार पाये गए है, खनन कार्य की अद्यतन स्थिति क्या है ;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि उपर्युक्त ताम्बे की खान का सड़क द्वारा सम्पर्क न होने के कारण वहां खनन कार्य में और आवश्यक भारी मशीनरी आदि पहुंचाने में कठिनाइयां पेश आ रही है ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकार ने खनन कार्य में विलम्ब को दूर करने के लिये क्या कदम उठाये है ?

खान मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बलराम सिंह यादव) : (क) से (ग) हिमाचल प्रदेश ; वाणिज्यिक आधार पर खनिजों के विदोहन में इस समय कोई केन्द्र सरकारी एजेंसी नहीं लगी हुई है। तथापि, भारतीय भूवैज्ञानिक सर्वेक्षण कार्यालय और सर्वेक्षण कार्य में लगा हुआ है। उनके द्वारा किए गए सर्वेक्षण के फलस्वरूप, कुल्लु जिले के अंतर्गत गरसा घाटी में तांबे के भंडारों का पता लगा है। इस क्षेत्र में गवेषण और सर्वेक्षण कार्य चल रहा है, किन्तु गरसा से नारोल तक सड़क बहुत खराब है।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

611. (Transferred to 12th May, 1993

Production of Steel

612. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE:
SHRI IQBAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have planned a substantial increase in steel production in the Eighth and Ninth Five Year Plans in order to meet the growing demands of the engineering industry:

(b) if os, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to adopt the latest technology for growth and development of furnaces industry; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to implement such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The projected demand for finished steel in 1996-97, the terminal year of the Eighth Five Year Plan, is 25 million tonnes (including 2.5 million tonnes for export). The production in that year is projected at 24.09 million tonnes against the production of 15.10 million tonnes (provisional) during 1992-93.

Government have taken several steps for increase in steel production during the Eighth Five Year Plan. These include:

(1) Modernisation and expansion of the public sector integrated steel plants.

(2) Delicensing and deregulation of the iron and steel industry to encourage private sector investment.

(3) Reduction of customs duty on project imports and reduction of minimum interest rate on commercial advances in the Budget